

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/669,331	ISTRE, ROY	
	Examiner John Rivell	Art Unit 3753	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1:313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 6/9/0.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 8-17.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20060622.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. John R. Moses on Friday June 16, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-7.

Claim 8 (twice amended) A sexless coupling member for connecting a fire hose to a fire hydrant or another pressurized source of water on a pumper truck, comprising: an internally threaded collar portion disposed about an axis and having an internally threaded section and an externally threaded section, the internally threaded section being adapted to receive an externally threaded neck of a fire hydrant outlet or a pumper truck outlet;

a flapper valve support portion at the end of the internally threaded collar portion, the valve support portion having a radially extending annular surface facing the first end of the internally threaded collar portion and having an opening therethrough;

a gasket seated against the radially extending annular surface and adapted to seal with the externally threaded neck of the fire hydrant outlet or pumper truck outlet;

a flapper valve supported on a pintle extending across the opening through the radially extending annular surface;

the flapper valve support portion having an internal ring portion with an external thread unitary with the internally threaded collar portion and aligned with the opening through the radially extending annular surface, the internal ring portion having a first radial shoulder extending radially outward from the external thread, and the internal ring portion having a pair of opposed pintle holes therein for receiving the pintle which supports the flapper valve, the pintle holes intersecting the external thread and being closed by unthreaded plugs adjacent to the external thread to prevent water passing around the pintle from passing through the pintle holes to locations beyond the external thread;

an external ring having a lower portion with an internal thread for threading with the external thread of the internal ring portion to hold the external ring in integral relation with the internal ring portion, the internal external ring having a second radial shoulder extending radially outward from the internal thread, and the externally threaded collar ring portion having at least one blind bore extending for receiving a locking pin when aligned with the at least one blind bore in the internal ring portion to prevent rotation of the external ring with respect to the internal ring portion after threading the external ring onto the internal ring portion, the at least one blind bore having a bottom with an insert of sealing material therein, which insert prevents pressurized water within the coupling from escaping therefrom through the external ring; the internal thread of the external ring overlying the unthreaded plugs in the pintle holes to positively retain the unthreaded plugs in place;

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~~an annular seal adjacent to the external thread on the internal collar portion and the internal thread on the external collar portion, the annular seal extending radially outwardly of the external and internal threads and being compressed between for sealing between the threads of the internal ring portion and the threads of the external ring only at the juncture of the flats and threads, and~~

hooked lugs extending axially from the external ring and arcuate grooves disposed between the internal ring portion and external rings, the hooked lugs and arcuate grooves being adapted to cooperate with a complementary sexless coupling on a hose, whereby the annular seal that is compressed between the first and second annular shoulders, the insert of sealing material in the blind bore and the unthreaded plugs in the pintle holes enable the sexless coupling to withstand water pressure as high as 400psi without leaking.

Add the following new claims:

16 (New) The sexless coupling of claim 8 wherein an annular seal, adjacent to the external thread on the internal ring portion and the internal thread on the external ring portion, extends radially outwardly of the external and internal threads and being compressed between for sealing between the threads of the internal ring portion and the threads of the external ring only at the juncture of the threads.

17 (New) The sexless coupling of claim 8 wherein a radially extending seal adjacent to the external thread on the internal ring portion, is engaged by the external ring adjacent to the internal thread thereon for sealing between the internal ring portion and external ring.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Rivell whose telephone number is (571) 272-4918. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur. from 6:30am-5:00pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Keasel can be reached on (571) 272-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



John Rivell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3753

j.r.